

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle comprising a hat beam (10) with a crown (11), ~~and side flanges (12, 13), and a cover (14),~~ and means including at least two side flanges for fastening said cover to said hat beam; fastened to the side flanges, wherein the crown faces the vehicle and is fastened to the vehicle, characterised in that the cover (14) extends a predetermined distance ~~past~~ beyond at least an outermost one of the said side flanges (12, 13) and has transverse stiffening means.

Claim 2. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to claim 1, characterised in that the transverse stiffening means comprise transverse corrugation of the cover (14).

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (new) A method of controlling the elevation of a bumper beam above the ground, said bumper beam being mounted to a platform of a vehicle model at a predetermined elevation above the ground; said bumper beam comprising a hat beam having a crown and side flanges, and a cover mounted to said hat beam by said side flanges; the steps of said method comprising:

mounting said cover to said hat beam such that a portion of said cover extends beyond at least one of said side flanges of said hat beam to form said bumper beam, and

mounting said bumper beam to said platform of said vehicle model,

wherein the distance which said portion of said cover extends beyond said at least one side flange corresponds to the elevation of said bumper beam above the ground when said bumper beam is mounted to said platform of said vehicle model.

Claim 6. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 5, further including the step of:

adjusting said distance which said portion of said cover extends beyond said at least one side flange for selectively varying the elevation of said bumper beam above the ground.

Claim 7. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 6, further including the steps of:

mounting said bumper beam to platforms of different vehicle models at different elevations above the ground; and

adjusting the distance which said portion of said cover extends beyond said at least one side flange to correspond to the

different elevations of said platforms of said different vehicle models above the ground.

Claim 8. (new) A bumper beam for a vehicle, said bumper beam comprising a hat beam (10) with a crown (11), a cover (14), and means including at least two side flanges for fastening said cover to said hat beam; wherein said crown faces the vehicle and said bumper beam is mounted to said vehicle by said crown, characterised in that said cover (14) extends a predetermined distance beyond at least an outermost one of said side flanges (12, 13).

Claim 9. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance which said cover extends past said outermost flange is selectively adjustable.

Claim 10. (new) A bumper beam as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said predetermined distance which said cover extends beyond said outermost flange is selectively adjustable.

Claim 11. (new) A bumper beam as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said cover is wider than said hat beam.

Claim 12. (new) A bumper beam as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said cover is wider than said hat beam.

Claim 13. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 5, further including the step of:

providing said cover with a greater width than the width of said bumper beam.